

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



NEWS RELEASE

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Davis Provisions Included in Committee-Approved Homeland Security Authorization Bill

Washington, D.C. – Several amendments offered by Congressman Tom Davis (R-VA-11th), Chairman of the House Government Reform Committee, were included in H.R. 1817, the Fiscal Year 2006 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Authorization Act. The bill, unanimously approved last night by the House Homeland Security Committee, authorizes \$34 billion for a wide range of homeland security measures to help protect the nation from terrorist attack.

“The primary obligation of any government is the safety and security of its citizens, and the inaugural Homeland Security Authorization helps Congress fulfill this obligation. We are striving for a 21st century government to meet 21st century challenges and fight 21st century enemies. I’d like to thank Chairman Chris Cox (R-CA) and the Committee as a whole for working together to improve this country’s defenses, and I look forward to marking up provisions that fall under Government Reform’s jurisdiction,” Davis said.

Improvements to the DHS Authorization Bill authored by Davis include:

- **Restoring General Aviation at Reagan.** Directs the Secretary of DHS to develop a plan to return general aviation to Reagan National Airport to balance the security of the Capital Region with the economic – and symbolic – importance of ending the general aviation ban.

“It’s good to see progress in multiple congressional committees on the reopening of Reagan Airport to general aviation. This movement indicates something is likely to happen soon and that there’s momentum and consensus among members. I feel that this language is most appropriate because it gives the lead role to DHS

instead of the Department of Transportation - this is, after all, a security matter - but the re-opening is the paramount concern, and we remain hopeful that the Administration will take care of this on its own.” Davis said.

- **Ensuring Coordination on Security Clearance and Screening Procedures.** Ensures that any new background check policies at DHS will not hinder progress on implementing the government-wide reforms to the security clearance process authored by Davis and included in last year’s Intelligence Reform Act.
- **Strengthening Government-wide Information Sharing.** Language that would clarify the dual role between DHS and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in ensuring that the important homeland security related information sharing conducted by DHS is appropriately coordinated with the government-wide information sharing policies established by OMB.
- **Reducing Airport Screening Wait Times.** Requires the Secretary of DHS to develop a plan to reduce wait times at airports to a maximum of 20 minutes during peak times. Also requires the Secretary to ensure that wait times for customs and immigration processing is roughly the same from airport to airport.

“This provision responds to concerns that Immigration and Customs processing operations at Dulles Airport are slower than similar operations at other international gateways due to personnel constraints. Such a disparity could potentially lead passengers to opt for flights to or from those airports perceived as faster,” Davis added.

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